

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212563

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, BD

SUBJECT: BDG UN PERM REP KAISER'S CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY
NEWSOM

REF: USUN 3158

1. DURING AUGUST 17 CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, BDG
UN PERM REP KAISER ASKED US TO SUPPORT BDG CANDIDACY FOR
ASIAN SEAT ON SECURITY COUNCIL. HIS PRESENTATION FOLLOWED
LINES OF EARLIER REQUEST (SEE REFTEL)--STRESSING THAT
SHOULD BANGLADESH NOT BE ELECTED TO A TERM THIS YEAR, IT
WOULD BE YEARS BEFORE IT AGAIN MIGHT HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR
SC MEMBERSHIP. HE ALSO MADE POINT OF THE USEFULNESS TO
US OF HAVING A COUNTRY IN SC THAT IS, MODERATE, ANTI-
COMMUNIST AND INFLUENTIAL AMONG BOTH ARAB AND NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES. THE UNDER SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE HOPED THAT
THE ASIAN COUNTRIES COULD AGREE ON A REGIONAL CANDIDATE,
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BUT FAILING THAT, WE WOULD DECIDE LATER HOW WE WOULD VOTE.
HE ASSURED KAISER THAT BANGLADESH'S CANDIDACY WOULD BE
GIVEN EVERY CONSIDERATION.

2. KAISER EXPLAINED HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO INQUIRE
ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRESIDENT ZIA TO WASHINGTON. HE
SUGGESTED IT COULD BE A QUOTE NO FRILLS UNQUOTE ONE-DAY

VISIT FOLLOWING THE DATE ZIA PLANS TO ADDRESS UNGA. IN RESPONSE UNDER SECRETARY OBSERVED THAT THE EARLY WEEKS OF UNGA WHEN FOREIGN LEADERS ARE SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS UNGA COINCIDES WITH THE TIME WHEN THE PRESIDENT PLANS TO BE CAMPAIGNING ON BEHALF OF CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES. IN THAT PERIOD HE HAS PROMISED TO MEET WITH ONLY TWO OR THREE FOREIGN LEADERS WITH WHOM HE HAS PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS OR WHO ARE REGIONAL LEADERS, AND REGRETTABLY THERE WILL NOT BE TIME FOR HIM TO RECEIVE ZIA AND OTHER HEADS OF STATE WHO WISH TO COME TO WASHINGTON. NOT SATISFIED WITH ANSWER, KAISER KEPT PRESSING FOR A DATE -- AFTER U.S. ELECTIONS, DECEMBER, EARLY NEXT YEAR, ETC. AFTER PROLONGED DISCUSSION, THE UNDER SECRETARY OFFERED NO ENCOURAGEMENT BUT INDICATED HE WOULD RAISE QUESTION WITH WHITE HOUSE. HE SUGGESTED HE MIGHT HAVE ANSWER IN SEPTEMBER REGARDING POST-ELECTION VISIT BUT HE DID NOT WISH TO QUOTE RAISE ANY HOPES UNQUOTE. REGARDING A ZIA VISIT NEXT YEAR, KAISER WAS TOLD ONLY THAT WE WOULD REFER THE MATTER TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

3. APPOINTMENT CONCLUDED WITH KAISER MENTIONING THAT THE BDG HAD OFFERED A BATTALION FOR THE PLANNED U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN NAMIBIA. THE UNDER SECRETARY ASSURED KAISER THAT IF THE U.S. WAS CONSULTED BY U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL REGARDING THE INCLUSION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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BANGLADESH UNIT, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SUPPORT QUALIFICATIONS OF BANGLADESH.

CHRISTOPHER

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